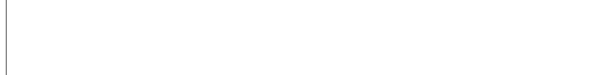




Association of American Foreign Service Women
P.O. Box 8068
Washington, D.C. 20024

15 August 1984

The Honorable William E. Colby



HR 5805

STAT
Dear General ^{Bill}Counsel:

Enclosed is the bill introduced for the benefit of the CIA former spouses who still need legal provisions for retirement/survivor benefits. Think anything needs improving? Or should be changed?

HR 5805 is based on a bill for Foreign Service wives, HR 5598. (An earlier version, HR 5197, would have given these women an annuity equal to what they would have received as a pro-rata share of their husbands' annuities. State did not like this version, however.) HR 5598 was introduced by Congresswoman Schroeder on 3 May 1984. It was drawn up by personnel officers at State--Bill Bacchus and Bob Hull--and is based on legislation first passed in 1965 and redefined in 1976 for FY 1977. This precedent bill provided a retirement annuity for Foreign Service widows. In the 1950s Foreign Service Officers had found it expensive to provide survivor annuities, so many elected not to do so. As a result, enough FS widows were left in poverty that Congress thought something should be done.

The original 1965 legislation provided an annual annuity of \$1,200. With subsequent COLAs, the annual sum now being paid is about \$7,400.

State's thinking seems to be that this bill has been in effect nearly 20 years, and has opened no floodgates of precedent. Women are still being paid under its mandate, and there seem to be no problems with the bill's administration.

Both of the FS bills that have been introduced this session, as well as the CIA bill, provide the same medical insurance group benefit that the 1980 FS and 1982 CIA legislation provided, with the wives paying the full cost of premiums.

Unfortunately OMB for the annuity and OPM for the medical benefits have refused their permission for State to support their own version at Congressional hearings. For now, the FS legislation is on hold, although State (in the persons of Secretary Shultz and director of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Atherton) have said they will continue to push for remedial action in the 1985 Congressional session.

CIA Spouse (cont'd)

Congressmen Mazzoli and Whitehurst introduced the CIA bill. Congressman Mazzoli needs the reputation of being a women's supporter in a campaign year. He unfortunately voted against ERA for procedural reasons.

Unfortunately, OMB and OPM are again negative. As a result, a House hearing will be held on 12 September, as planned, but we know the bill will not go forward this session.

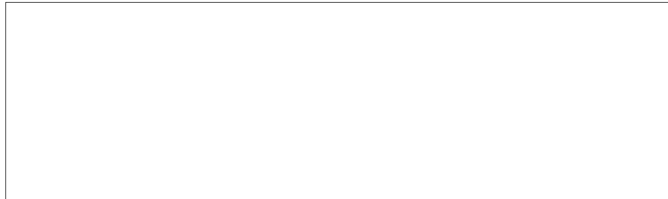
Bernie Raimo says for the long term prospects are good, because both committes are supportive, as is CIA! So we shall do our best for the hearing and look forward to the 1985 session.

I sent a letter to Mr. Helms, as we spoke, asking him to be spokesman for the legislation. The letter went out about the 27th of July, but I have had no answer. He could be on vacation-- Any advice on how to handle? Because we are soliciting, I had to ask again... *If I must, I will, I guess -*

Now, once more, may I express the gratitude of all CIA spouses for your support and advice. We value both highly.

Sincerely,

Enclosure



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